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LIVEWIRE
It's a Good Day To Be BAD!
KALMAN
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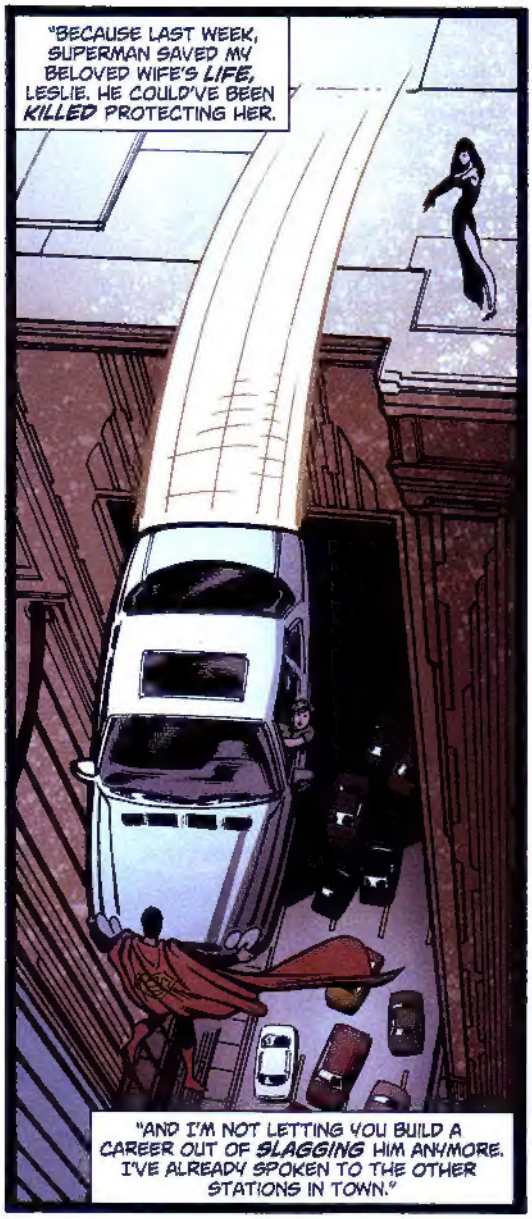
...LADY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, BUT I'M SICK AND TIRED OF HEARING YOU RUN DOWN SUPERMAN EVERY NIGHT. SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE YOUR NASTY LITTLE COMMENTS AND STICK THEM RIGHT...
WOAH-HO-HO-HO, CALLER. WELCOME TO A LITTLE THING I LIKE TO CALL THE SEVEN-SECOND-DELAY-MORON-DISPOSAL-BUTTON!
HONNNNK
WKRN
Ever since I was a little girl, ever since I can remember, I knew two things for certain.
That I had a special talent...
HANG ON ONE SECOND, CALLER, WHILE I FILE YOUR COMPLAINT.
FWWSSHH
ANYWAYSES, LOYAL LISTENERS, DO YOU SEE THE KIND OF DOOFBAG CAPELICKERS I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH, JUST TO BRING YOU UNWASHED MASSES THE TRUTH? I ASK YOU.
STUDIO
...and that the boys weren't ever gonna let me play on a level field.
GUYS, CITIZENS, GEEKS, MORTS AND STIFFS...
WHEN ARE YOU GONNA LEARN? THE BIG SANTA SUPERMAN DOESN'T CARE ABOUT YOU. ALL HE CARES ABOUT IS HEADLINES AND DAILY PLANET BIMBETTES.
HOLD THAT THOUGHT FOR A STATION BREAK. YOU'RE LIVE WITH LESLIE, ON THE WIRE ON WRKN, DON'TCHA FEEL PRIVILEGED?
GOT A PERSONAL CALL ON HOLD FOR YA, LES.
Take my older bro for example. I love him dearly, but...
...Well, let's just be honest about it: Boy's got girl issues.
YOU WHAT?
NO. I SAID, NO.
YOU MADE THIS MESS, YOU LEAVE ME OUT OF IT.
It's fer sure he wasn't gonna be any help, despite being a well-known photographer. So I made my own damn golden rainbow.
Youngest talk show host in Metropolis, ever, and not the kiddie news like that Batson twerp in Fawcett City.
Number one among the key purchasing demos in my slot and market. Number one.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO ABOUT HER. YOU HEAR ME? JUST DON'T CALL ME AGAIN, 'TIL IT'S...
I GOTTA GO. I'M BACK ON IN 30 SECONDS.
NO, SEÑORITA. YOU ARE NOT.
It's all I ever wanted. All I ever cared about, this job.
Being somebody.
I'M CHANGING THE FORMAT, LESLIE. TO AN ALL-COUNTRY MIX.
YOU'RE FIRED, I'M NOT ALTOGETHER DISPLEASED TO SAY.
...
WHAT?

And I always knew... I freakin' knew.
Some guy was going to take it all away from me.
COUNTRY?
MIGUEL, YOU'RE KIDDING ME. DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY OVERNIGHTS WERE THIS WEEKEND?
THAT'S MR SENDOZA TO YOU, LESLIE. AND YOUR "TALENTS" AREN'T WANTED HERE ANYMORE.
BUT...BUT, WHY?


"BECAUSE LAST WEEK, SUPERMAN SAVED MY BELOVED WIFE'S LIFE, LESLIE. HE COULD'VE BEEN KILLED PROTECTING HER.
"AND I'M NOT LETTING YOU BUILD A CAREER OUT OF SLAGGING HIM ANYMORE. I'VE ALREADY SPOKEN TO THE OTHER STATIONS IN TOWN."

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR RATINGS ARE. ONCE I TOLD THE OTHER OWNERS HOW MUCH AD REVENUE WE'VE LOST BECAUSE OF YOUR RANTS...
...WELL, I HEAR COAST CITY IS HIRING.
YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES TO PACK UP YOUR THINGS, THEN I'M HAVING SECURITY ESCORT YOU OUT.
AND SHAME ON ME FOR HIRING YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

TONIGHT YOU RUN THAT TAPE I GAVE YOU, JERRY.
NEW COWBOY JOCKS'LL BE IN FOR THE MORNING SHIFT.
UH...SURE THING, MR. SENDOZA.
I knew this was coming.
If a girl's got a big mouth, there's always some guy can't wait to shut it for her.

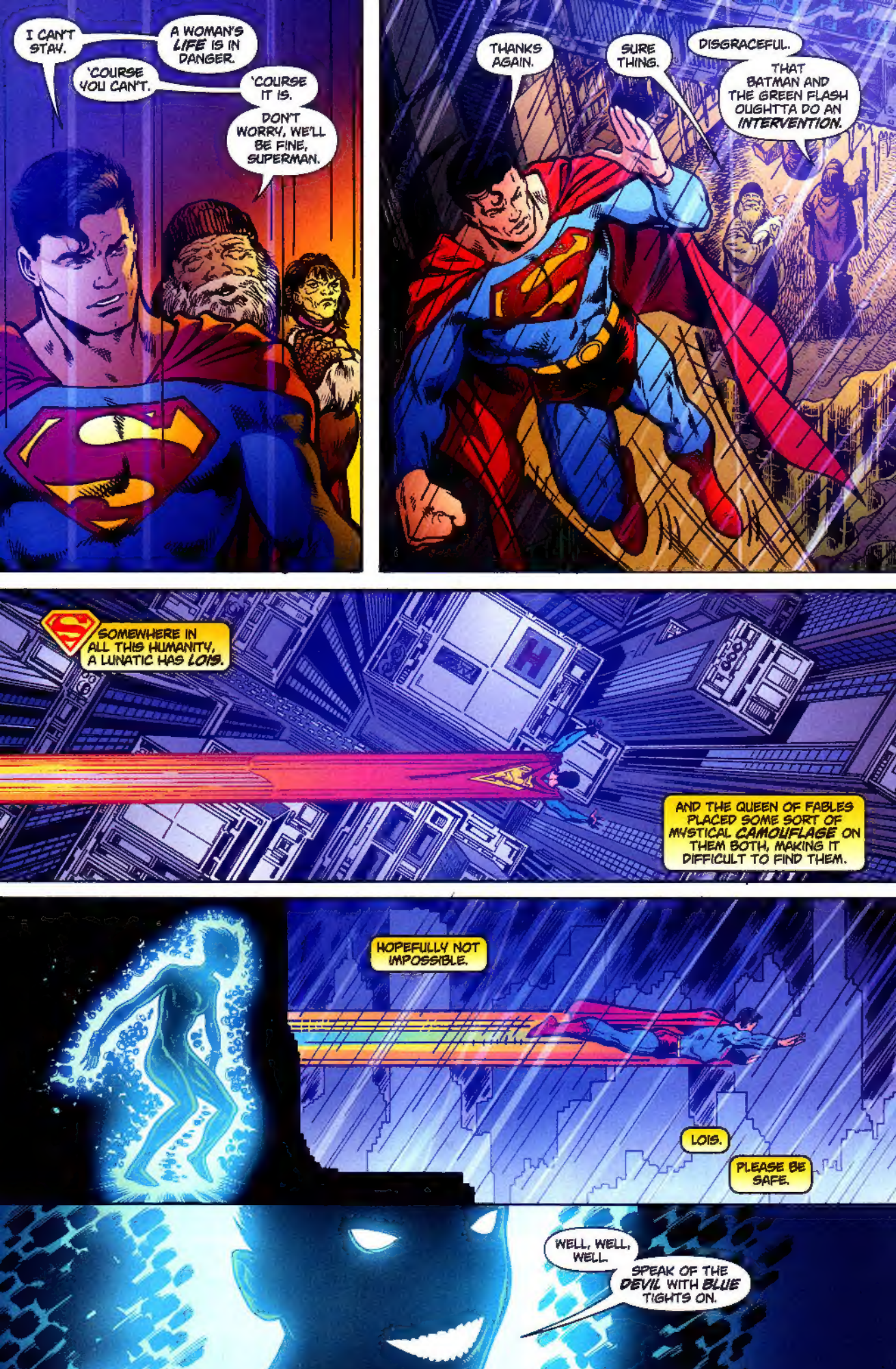
Don't they get it?
KZZAK

This thing is my whole life.
I'M, UH...
I'M REAL SORRY 'BOUT THIS, LESLIE. I HAD NO IDEA.
YOU OKAY?
OKAY? YOU KIDDIN', JERRY?
All righty.
I'M THE KEENER-EST.
THINK I'M GONNA GO GET SOME AIR.
If I can't stay in the game by playing by the rules...
...Then I'm sure as hell gonna burn the game board.
THANKS FOR ALL YER SUPPORT, JERRY.
In fact, you know what I think?
HEY, TANDY.
YOU MIGHT WANNA, YOU KNOW, GET THE HELL OUT OF THE BUILDING.
I...I'LL DO JUST THAT, LESLIE. UM...THANKS?
=GRUNT=
I think I need a bigger venue.
YOU HEAR ME, METROPOLIS?
WE WANT THE AIRWAVES!

Ever since I was a little girl, ever since I can remember, I knew two things for certain.
That I had a special talent...
...And that the boys weren't ever gonna let me play on a level field.
KRAKK
BOOOM
THAT'S ME CALLING, METROPOLIS!
THE GIRL YOU LOVE TO HATE!
WELL, I HATE YOU BACK, YOU HEAR ME?
I HATE YOU BAAAAAAAA...
A CONTAGION OF MADNESS
WRITER • GAIL SIMONE PENCILLER • JOHN BYRNE INKER • NELSON
COLORIST • GUY MAJOR LETTERER • PHIL BALSMAN
JEANINE SCHAEFER • ASST. EDITOR EDDIE BERGANZA • EDITOR
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

Rock.
Rockity rock rock!
I'm comin' in the air tonight, Tropolis.
Hold on.

NRRFF?
WHAT?
THAT'S JUST BOLIVER, SUPERMAN. DON'T PAY HIM NO WORRY.
WE THREE BEEN WATCHIN' OVER YOU A SHORT SPELL.
WHAT HAPPENED? HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE?
FELL OUT OF THE SKY. IT'S DISGRACEFUL.
BIG OL' SUPERHERO LIKE YOU, DRUNK IN PUBLIC!
YOU COULDA FLEW RIGHT INTO A PLANE.
HE AIN'T DRUNK, MAGGIE. HE'S HURT OR SOMETHING.
HOW MANY FINGERS AM I HOLDING UP?
HE AIN'T DRUNK.
WE WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE, SON. HAD US A WEE BIT ANXIOUS, YOU DID.
NO, I'M FINE. I...
I WAS IN A MAGICAL DOMAIN, AND I GUESS BEING TRANSPORTED HERE TOOK SOMETHING OUT OF ME.
YEP, THAT'S WHAT ALWAYS HAPPENS WHEN I GET TRANSPORTED FROM A MAGICAL DOMAIN.
DISGRACEFUL.
LISTEN, THANK YOU FOR WATCHING OVER ME, BUT SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN A SHELTER ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS?
NOSSIR, THEM ASSISTANCE PEOPLE, THEY DON'T LIKE BOLIVER.
ANYWAYS, WEATHERGUY SAYS REST OF THE NIGHT'S GONNA BE GETTIN' NICE AND CLEAR, STORM'S JUST A TOURIST, YOU KNOW.


I CAN'T STAY.
A WOMAN'S LIFE IS IN DANGER.
'COURSE YOU CAN'T.
'COURSE IT IS.
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL BE FINE, SUPERMAN.
THANKS AGAIN.
SURE THING.
DISGRACEFUL.
THAT BATMAN AND THE GREEN FLASH OUGHTTA DO AN INTERVENTION.
SOMEWHERE IN ALL THIS HUMANITY, A LUNATIC HAS LOIS.
AND THE QUEEN OF FABLES PLACED SOME SORT OF MYSTICAL CAMOUFLAGE ON THEM BOTH, MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO FIND THEM.
HOPEFULLY NOT IMPOSSIBLE.
LOIS.
PLEASE BE SAFE.
WELL, WELL, WELL.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL WITH BLUE TIGHTS ON.

I've faced an alphabet soup of corrupt government agencies.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT, YOU KNOW.
YOU PUT THE DEVIL IN ME.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT NOW, WILLIS?
OH, YEAH, RIGHT. LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW.
PRETEND I'M NOT A STALKER PSYCHOTIC, KID, AND LET ME IN ON THIS THEORY OF YOURS.
Looked up close into the eyes of despots and tyrants.
I've done three jailhouse interviews with men condemned to the electric chair for crimes so indescribably heinous mere words seem completely inadequate.
I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU CALL ME KID, LOIS. IT'S NOT RESPECTFUL.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. HOW YOU POSED, JUST FOR ME, EVERY TIME I TOOK YOUR PICTURE.
I've faced down evil mystics and supervillains.
YOU'RE A PHOTOGRAPHER, WILLIS.
THAT'S PART OF MY JOB, POSING FOR GUYS WITH CAMERAS.
DON'T YOU SAY THAT. DON'T!
FROM NOW ON, THERE ARE NO OTHER GUYS FOR YOU.
But the blank, faraway stare in this damaged kid's eyes is one of the scariest things I've ever seen.
And he's already killed at least twice.
OR THE NEXT GUY TO TAKE YOUR PICTURE WILL BE AT THE MORGUE, LOIS.
ALL RIGHT, WILLIS.
YOU'VE GOT THE GUN.
At one time or another, most women in the public eye have some lovesick fantasist making up scenarios about them.
I just never figured it'd be my co-worker.

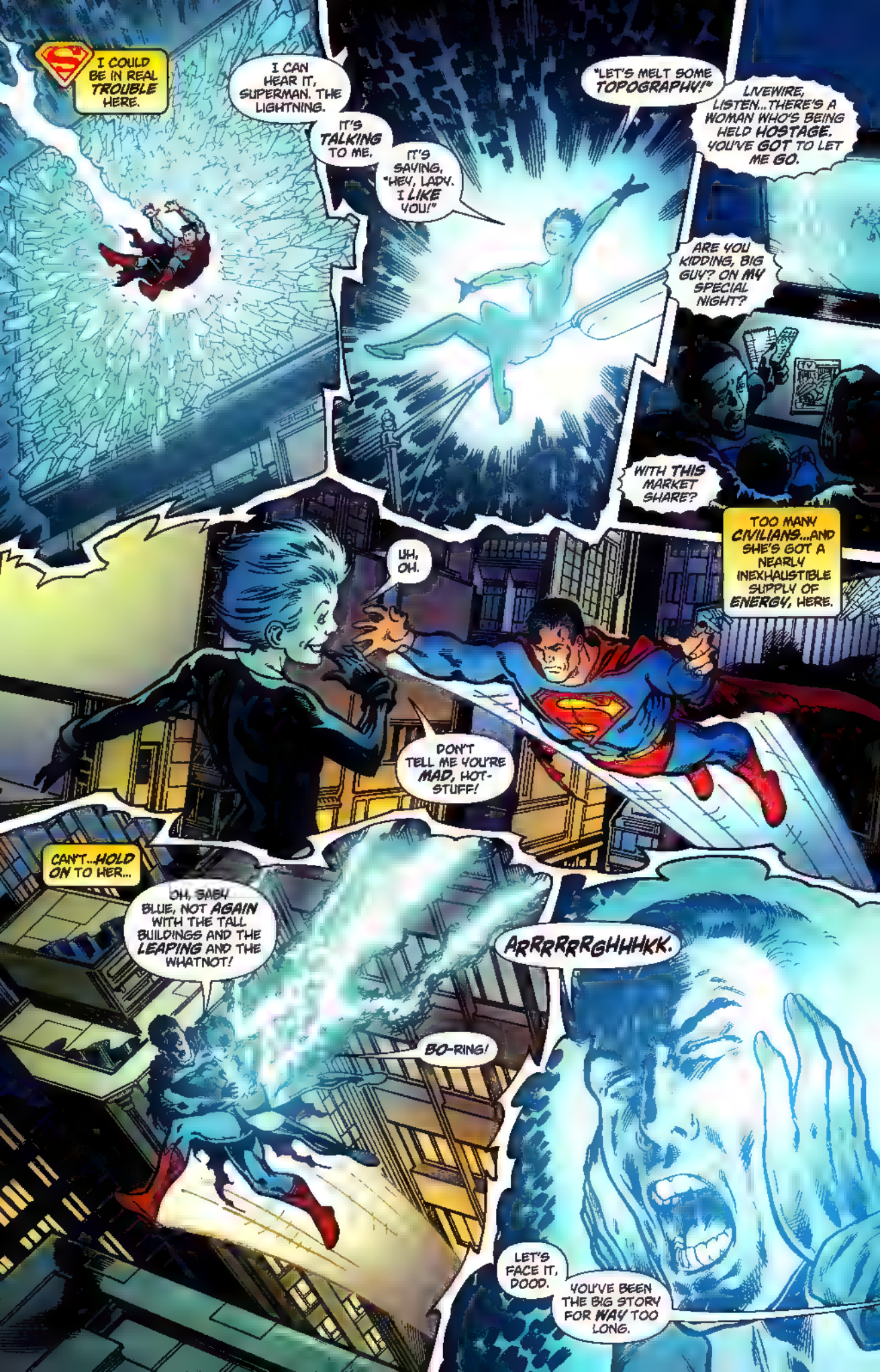
It's the not knowing. The shifting feeling of being the starring actress in some maniac's dreamlife that makes this such a delicate walk, on razored wire.
OH, NO. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RUIN THIS NIGHT FOR US, LOIS.
STAND UP STRAIGHT, PLEASE.
Because god only knows how this 'date' is supposed to end.
YOU...
YOU LOOK AMAZING.
GEE. THANKS.
HOLD ON, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.
He's not totally in the fantasy, I can see that much.
Because he's still a little bit real-world cautious.
I WAS GONNA GET YOU A CORSAGE, BUT...
...WELL, YOU KNOW. THE PINS.
WILLIS.
I DON'T WANT TO UPSET YOU, HERE...BUT YOU DO REALIZE THESE ROSES ARE DEAD, RIGHT?
YEAH, I...
...I DON'T KNOW WHY I'D DO THAT. GIVE YOU DEAD ROSES. I GUESS THAT'S PRETTY WEIRD.
YOU CAN PUT THEM DOWN. WHILE WE DANCE, I MEAN.
So I'm playing along. For my moment. and that moment will come, willis.
OUR PROM THEME IS MAGIC UNDER THE STARS, LOIS.
DO YOU FEEL IT? FEEL THE MAGIC?
Because to be honest?
I didn't even care that much for my real prom.

He's concentratin'.
Focusin' all those heebie jeebie glory boy walkin-on-sunshine powers of his.
Bet I know just what he's lookin' for, the big dope.
HEY, MISTER YESTERDAY'S NEWS.
COME MEET A RISING STAR.
UNGH.
WHAT IN THE WORLD...?
HEY SUPERMAN!
FASHIONS
ATE YOU BLUE!
KAROVA
ABe

It's all about who's watching who, this whole business, Supes.
And brother, let me tell you...
...I know how to make an entrance.
QUIT HOGGING THE STAGE, PAL!
HEY, HEY, BIG BOY. THAT'S RIGHT, I'M TALKIN' ATCHA.
AVENUE A
GNNNNUHHH!

NO.
NOT NOW.
KRAKKL
KRASH
TAXI
HURRY, HURRY, HURRY, LADIES AND JERKS, AS REALITY TV GETS A LOT MORE...UH... REALIFIED!
YOU'RE WATCHING LWTV (AND YOU AIN'T GOT NO CHOICE ANYWAY!), WITH YOUR HOST, THE BEAUTIFUL, THE BRILLIANT, THE BOO-TASTIC...
...LIVEWIRE!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, YOUNG LADY...
OH, YOU BETTER MAKE TIME, PRETTY BOY.
BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR ONE RATINGS-GRABBER IN THIS TOWN, AND I THINK IT OUGHTTA BE SOMEONE A LITTLE YOUNGER AND SEXIER.
I HEAR THAT A LOT, ACTUALLY.
WELL, SHE'S HUMAN.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HER ENTIRE SYSTEM IS RUNNING ON ELECTRICAL CURRENT. ENOUGH JUICE TO POWER THE CITY.
OR DESTROY IT.
AND YET, I'M STILL HERE.
AW, SUPERMAN..
...YOU'RE HURTING MY FEELINGS.
WORSE YET, I'M STILL NOT COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM THE QUEEN OF FABLES' ASSAULT.


I COULD BE IN REAL TROUBLE HERE.
I CAN HEAR IT, SUPERMAN. THE LIGHTNING.
IT'S TALKING TO ME.
IT'S SAYING, "HEY, LADY. I LIKE YOU!"
"LET'S MELT SOME TOPOGRAPHY!"
LIVEWIRE, LISTEN...THERE'S A WOMAN WHO'S BEING HELD HOSTAGE. YOU'VE GOT TO LET ME GO.
ARE YOU KIDDING, BIG GUY? ON MY SPECIAL NIGHT?
WITH THIS MARKET SHARE?
TOO MANY CIVILIANS...AND SHE'S GOT A NEARLY INEXHAUSTIBLE SUPPLY OF ENERGY, HERE.
UH, OH.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE MAD, HOT-STUFF!
CAN'T...HOLD ON TO HER...
OH, SABU BLUE, NOT AGAIN WITH THE TALL BUILDINGS AND THE LEAPING AND THE WHATNOT!
ARRRRRRGHHHKK.
BO-RING!
LET'S FACE IT, DOOD.
YOU'VE BEEN THE BIG STORY FOR WAY TOO LONG.

I ALWAYS HAD A THING FOR ELECTRICITY. CALL IT A MUTUAL CRUSH-ON. I LIKE IT, IT LIKES ME, WE'RE STINKBUDDIES, YOU KNOW?
BUT THIS.
I'LL BE EVERY-WHERE.
SATELLITE, TELEVISION, RADIO, CELL PHONES, THE INTERNET...
THEY'RE GONNA ADORE ME IN PAKISTAN.
OR ELSE.
ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS, WELL...
MOVE SOME OLD NEWS TO THE BACK OF THE PAPER.
STANDARD WISDOM SAYS, WITH POWER SAPPERS, THE BEST ALTERNATIVES ARE TO EITHER STARVE THEM OF THE POWER SOURCE...
...OR OVERLOAD THEM WITH IT.
BUT IN MY WEAKENED STATE, I CAN'T RESTRAIN HER FOR LONG, AND THERE'S NOT A WATT'S WORTH OF LIGHTNING LEFT IN THE SKY.
BE HONEST WITH ME, SUPERMAN. DOES ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE MAKE MY BUTT LOOK BIG?
LIVEWIRE, LISTEN TO ME.
YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT. YOU'VE GOT THE TALENT.
BUT THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING.
I'M NOT MUCH FOR WARNINGS, TO BE HONEST.
BYE, BYE, BLUE EYES.
He's almost--almost, mind you--perfectly datable hunkmeat.
Too bad about the morals and junk.
CAN'T...STOP IT WITHOUT A...KILLING IMPACT.
GOT TO TRY TO...REDIRECT INERTIA.
NO

HE IS POWERFUL, GOTTA HAND HIM THAT.
WHAT'S IT GONNA TAKE TO MAKE THIS GUY TAKE THE HINT?
WHAT THE HELL?
DID ONE OF YOU MAROONS JUST FLING A METROPOLIS HOT DOG AT ME?
DO YOU KNOW THE KIND OF THINGS THEY PUT IN THOSE?
YOU LEAVE HIM ALONE, LADY, OR YOU'LL REGRET IT!
THAT'S SUPERMAN.
HE PROTECTS US!
OHMMM, DAMMIT!
THOSE PEOPLE GAVE ME THE BREATHER I NEEDED.
BACK OFF, NORMALS, AFORE I SIZZLE YOU ALL LIKE WALKING BACON.
HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT COUNTS.

EVEN WHEN YOU'RE BRINGING THEM NOTHING BUT TROUBLE AND DANGER, THEY LOVE YOU, SUPES.
I MAY BE POSITIVELY ILL.
SO THAT'S IT
PAIN OR NO PAIN, THIS ENDS NOW.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT LOIS LANE, SUPERMAN.
SHE'S GOT A DATE WITH MY SEMI-PSYCHO HALF BROTHER. GUESS IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY.
TELL ME YOU'RE NOT AT LEAST A LITTLE DEPRESSED, HUH?
SHE KNOWS?
YOU...
...HAD YOUR WARNING, LIVEWIRE.
GULPAGE!
DID I GO TOO FAR, YOU THINK?
I NEVER WAS ANY GOOD WITH BOUNDARIES.
YOU THINK I'M SCARED OF THE SKY, SUPERMAN?
I OWN THE SKY!
YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THE SMELL OF YOUR FLESH BURNING, YOU GLORY HOG!
OUR DATE'S ALMOST OVER, LOIS. SHAME IT HAS TO...
...HAS TO END.
Well, that doesn't sound good. Now or never, I guess.
WAIT. YOU FORGOT SOMETHING.
YOU FORGOT THE PUNCH.
NO, I DIDN'T! IT'S RIGHT HERE.
NOT THAT PUNCH, WILLIS.

UHHHNN!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT FORMS THUNDERCLOUDS, LIVEWIRE?
LET'S SEE IF YOU PAID ATTENTION IN CLASS.
DON'T YOU LEAVE!
I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU LEAVE!
Please, just let him be a lousy shot.
Please.
ICE PARTICLES.
CRASHING INTO EACH OTHER.
Clark
BLAM
PING
I love you
So much.
THIS IS MY FAVORITE PART--
WHEN THEY STOP SMILING.
HATE TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS, LIVEWIRE.
Yep. Ever since I was a kid, I knew I had the talent.

BUT YOU'VE JUST BEEN CANCELLED.
KA-THOOM
AHHHH
And sure enough, some guy was going to take that away.
Bummer.
The girl who fell to Earth. That's so rock and roll.
If I'm in jail, can't... can't protect you anymore, bro. Guess neither of our dreams come true tonight.
But I can do one last thing for you.
LIVEWIRE, PLEASE.
YOU DON'T WANT YOUR BROTHER TO GO TO JAIL FOR MURDER. I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT THAT.
"BEACH. SHACK ON THE NORTH BEACH, SUPERMAN.
"YOU'LL LIKE HIM. HE'S A BIG FAN OF YOURS."
GOODBYE.
BLAM
I'M COMING, LOIS.
AND DON'T WORRY.
SHUNK
IT'S JUST A SPEEDING BULLET.

AND IT TURNS OUT I'M FASTER THAN THOSE.
DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT MS. PULITZER WINNER WAS SCARED.
DON'T TELL ANYONE..

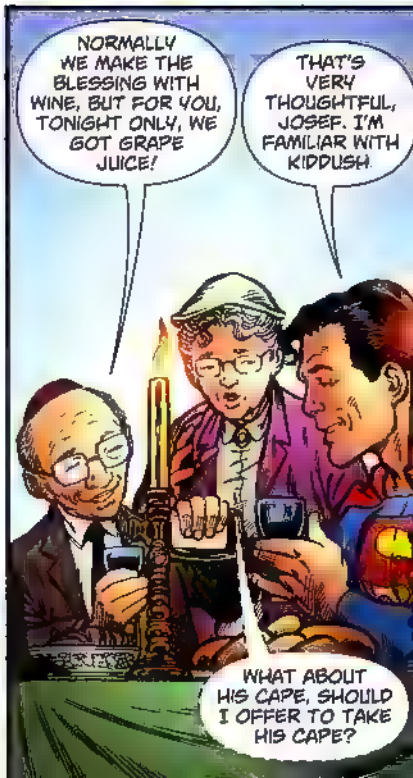
...BUT YOU ALMOST STOPPED A SUPERHERO'S HEART.
NOW IF YOU'D BROUGHT ME A CHANGE OF CLOTHES--
--YOU REALLY WOULD BE THE PERFECT HUSBAND.

NOW GET ME OUT OF HERE. I'VE GOT A STORY TO WRITE AND A SENATOR TO PUT IN PRISON!
NAG, NAG, NAG.

TWO NIGHTS LATER..

BZZZT

SUPERMAN! COME IN!
THIS IS MY WIFE, ESTHER. ESTHER, THIS IS, UH, SUPERMAN.
SORRY I'M LATE, JOSEF, ESTHER.
NONSENSE, WE'RE HOLDING SHABBOS DINNER FOR YOU, AND THE GUEST OF HONOR IS NEVER LATE.


NORMALLY WE MAKE THE BLESSING WITH WINE, BUT FOR YOU, TONIGHT ONLY, WE GOT GRAPE JUICE!
THAT'S VERY THOUGHTFUL, JOSEF. I'M FAMILIAR WITH KIDDUSH.
WHAT ABOUT HIS CAPE, SHOULD I OFFER TO TAKE HIS CAPE?

MY ESTHER'S A WONDERFUL COOK, SUPERMAN. YOU WON'T GET A FEAST LIKE THIS ON THAT MOONBASE THING OF YOURS.
I'M SURE THAT'S TRUE. EVERYTHING LOOKS TERRIFIC.
YOU NEED LOTS OF THESE KUGELS. THEY'RE DELICIOUS.
IS THAT ENOUGH?
A LITTLE BIT MORE.
MORE, SUPERMAN? SURELY, SOME DESSERT...
UH...
QUIT FUSSING, ESTHER. THE MAN WANTS TO KNOW WHY HE WAS INVITED HERE, AM I RIGHT?
I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
SUPERMAN, THIS IS MY SON, ISAAC. HE DIED IN THE GULF WAR.
YOU'D HAVE LIKED HIM. LIKE YOU, HE WAS NEVER AFRAID OF ANYTHING.
LIKE JIMMY'S NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING.
I WATCHED JIMMY CLIMB UP THAT CRAZY BRIDGE AND TRY TO FIGHT A ROBOT WITH A BASEBALL BAT, SUPERMAN.
YOU TWO MAY NEVER BE AFRAID, BUT I'M AFRAID FOR HIM.
HE IDOLIZES YOU, AND I'M AFRAID WE'LL BOTH LOSE HIM ONE DAY.
I WORRY FOR YOUR INSPIRATION TO THAT YOUNG MAN.
MR. SCHUMAN... JOSEF. JIMMY'S VERY SPECIAL TO ME, AND I KNOW YOUR HEART IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE. BUT I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE A COUPLE THINGS WRONG, IF I MAY.
FIRST, I DO WORRY. I WORRY ALL THE TIME.
BUT MORE THAN THAT, THE WORLD IS FULL OF EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE.
"THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO DO KINDNESSES, OR SEARCH FOR TRUTH DESPITE THEIR LIVES BEING AT RISK...
"THE ENGINEERS, THE TEACHERS, THE DOCTORS AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS, THE SCHOLARS AND THE FIREMEN, AND YES, THE JOURNALISTS.
"PEOPLE WHO RISK EVERYTHING FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS, AND THOSE WHO SIMPLY TRY TO HELP THOSE WHOSE NEED MIGHT BE GREATER THAN THEIR OWN.

"THOSE PEOPLE INSPIRE ME, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
"THEY'RE MY MAGNETIC NORTH, IF YOU WILL. THEY'RE THE WHY OF IT ALL, JOSEF.
OHA! ONE HEART, MANY HOMES!
"I CAN'T MAKE EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE CHOOSE NOT TO BE EXCEPTIONAL. IF I DID, WHO WOULD THAT SERVE?
THE WORLD NEEDS THEM MORE THAN IT NEEDS ME.
BUT...BUT JIMMY'S SO YOUNG.
HE IS. BUT THE PEOPLE AT THE PLANET, JOSEF--
--THEY'RE SPECIAL. I THINK THEY WERE ALL MEANT TO DO GREAT THINGS. MAYBE GREATER IN THEIR WAY THAN WHAT I CAN DO.
AND JOSEF...
"...WHEN YOU PUSHED JIMMY OUT OF THE WAY OF THAT FIGHT I HAD WITH BLACK ADAM--
"--YOU BECAME ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE, TOO."
EVERYONE GETS ONE LIFE, JOSEF.
JUST SPEAKING OF THE PEOPLE YOU'VE WORKED WITH AT THE PLANET...PEOPLE LIKE PERRY, LOIS, RON, AND YES, LIKE JIMMY OLSEN.
THEY'RE PEOPLE WHO CHOOSE TO MAKE THEIR LIVES COUNT.
I CAN'T STAND IN THE WAY OF THAT. IF I HAVE ANY IDEA, ANY NOTION AT ALL OF RIGHT AND WRONG, I KNOW THAT WOULD BE WRONG.
BUT I DO PROMISE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM ALL. NO ONE SAYS I CAN'T WATCH OUT FOR MY FRIENDS. YOU INCLUDED, SIR.
I HAVE TO BELIEVE YOU, SUPERMAN. IT'S ALL WE CAN DO.
YOU COME BACK HERE ANY TIME, SUPERMAN.
SUCH A NICE YOUNG MAN.
NO APPETITE TO SPEAK OF, HOWEVER.
END

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This Month's Cover by...
KALMAN ANDRASOFSKY

Next In...

Action Comics #836

Part 2 of THIS IS YOUR LIFE, SUPERMAN running across all 3 Superman titles this month! At the height of glory, Superman finally gets caught by the one person he can't defeat, Lois Lane! It's a love story that just might mean the end of the universe!

BLUE BEETLE #1 (March 2006): Sure, Ted Kord was squashed in COUNTDOWN TO INFINITE CRISIS, but you can't keep a good bug down! We herald the return of the Blue Beetle with an all-new monthly series, brought to you by the writing duo of **Keith Giffen** and screenwriter **John Rogers**, with artist **Cully Hamner**! But don't expect a scientist in spandex – the mystical Scarab has chosen a successor to the Blue Beetle mantle, one who will painfully discover that superpowers and super-villains are nothing to "Bwa-Ha-Ha!" about!

The Hot List THIS WEEK

ELFQUEST: THE DISCOVERY #1 (OF 4)

A thrilling bimonthly miniseries by Wendy and Richard Pini! Sunstream has been hibernating, but his soul self has been exploring the world of Two Moons. Now he'll lead his fellow Wolfriders on a new journey, one promising discovery, danger and romance!

INFINITE CRISIS #4 (OF 7)

A great power is unleashed, but whose side is it on? Witness a shocking confrontation between Batman and Nightwing, a vicious battle that threatens to tear the heroes of the DCU further apart, and a startling change to the recently deceased!

JLA #124

"World Without a Justice League" Part 5 of 6! The Seven Deadly Sins have been unleashed! Now Envy infects Green Arrow, leading the archer to turn his rage against Batman!

LOOKING AHEAD "ONE YEAR LATER"

We hate saying we told you so, but we did warn everyone way-back-when that INFINITE CRISIS would change *everything*. And as we've mentioned in prior columns, the DC Universe will still be reeling from the impact as we jump "One Year Later." Here's just a sample of what we can expect this March:

First up, there's an eight-part crossover running in BATMAN and DETECTIVE COMICS, written by Eisner and Harvey award-winner **James Robinson**, and illustrated by artistic duos **Leonard Kirk** and **Andy Clarke** and **Don Kramer** and **Keith Champagne**. After a year's absence, Batman and Robin return to Gotham, finding a corrupt city government, a new police commissioner, and a mysterious vigilante who's been keeping the crime rate *way* down. But when murder victims start cropping up in large numbers, the Dynamic Duo suspect this vigilante... and wonder if his motives are more sinister than anyone suspects. Trust us, you won't believe how this one turns out!

Meanwhile, the consequences of Superman's actions at the end of INFINITE CRISIS still reverberate in Metropolis, marking a drastic change in how the city is protected. Look for old and new villains alike to pop out of the woodwork in an eight-part epic from new Super-scribes **Kurt Busiek** and **Geoff Johns** that will relaunch ACTION COMICS and SUPERMAN... and set the stage for a dramatic development in July, when the two titles split off in a major way! **Pete Woods** handles the art chores for this astonishing arc, which kicks off with SUPERMAN... #650?! (No, your collection is *not* suddenly missing 400-plus issues, we've just given Supes' longest-running solo book its old title back.)

And last, the Winged Wonder's exploits reach new heights in 2006, thanks to the new creative "dream team" of writer **Walt Simonson** and artist **Howard Chaykin**! (FYI, these guys once shared a studio with Frank Miller! Talk about a room!) There's just one small catch: this sure-to-be epic run begins with *HAWKGIRL* #50! Yep, the series' title changes as Kendra Saunders returns to Earth — *alone* — and flies solo as St. Roch's resident guardian!

WILLINGHAM'S MONTHLY 'PACT

After making comics magic last year with DAY OF VENGEANCE, writer **Bill Willingham** has decided to script *and* draw his team of mystical misanthropes in a brand-new ongoing series! Every month, mysticism runs amok in SHADOWPACT, starting with an entire town held hostage by a new supernatural force unlike anything ever seen in the DCU! You don't have to be a magician to know that you better reserve your copy of SHADOWPACT #1 this April... before it disappears off the racks!

— The Mole at 1700

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